

DDD DISTRICT WEST  
INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE

Division of Developmental Disabilities

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Arizona Department of Economic Security

District West Independent Oversight Committee 2019/2020 Annual Report  
Maricopa County (West Area)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

The Independent Oversight Committees (IOC) formerly the Human Rights Committees, supported by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), were established into law under ARS. 41-3801 and function as independent advisory and oversight committees to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Independent Oversight Committees (IOC) were established to promote and protect the rights of members with developmental disabilities who receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

District West IOC is located on the west side of Maricopa County and extends south including portions of the Gila River Indian Reservation, to North Phoenix, and West to the border of Arizona, In 2019/2020 District West served over 10,000 members.

District West IOC continues to be one of the fastest growing districts in membership for the DES and DDD. The monthly meetings are held at the Peoria DES office in Peoria Arizona but since April 2020 have been held electronically (see <https://ioc.az.gov/committees/ddd>) due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions. The committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of month for approximately two hours.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES:

The Independent Oversight Committees (IOC) are made up of dedicated volunteers who donate their time to serve the members within their districts. The IOC operates under the Open Meeting Laws of Arizona and follows specific IOC Guidelines created by their district. The District West Committee meets approximately ten times per year.

The committee provides independent oversight, review, research and makes recommendations to the Department of Developmental Disabilities. The committee reviews incidents of including Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Other Abuse, Neglect, Accidental Injury, Missing Clients, Emergency Measures, Human Rights Violations, Medication Errors, Death, Suicide, Hospitalization, Incarcerations, Theft and Property Destruction. The committee members also review Behavior Plans (BPS) and make recommendations for changes.

## DISTRICT WEST HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

The District West Independent Oversight Committee (IOC) is composed of dedicated community members including parents, family members, professionals and paraprofessionals who volunteer their time and knowledge to advocate for DDD members.

Current members for the 2019/2020 year are:

Diedra Freedman (De) (Chairperson), Pat Thundercloud (Vice Chairperson), Bernadine Henderson, Brad Doyle, Cynthia Macluskie, Laurene Zemis, Julie Heineking and Pamela Grady. All the current members have appointments by the Arizona Department of Administration or the Division of Developmental Disabilities if appointment was prior to August of 2019. Recruitment efforts from July 2019 to June 2020 gained 0 new members bringing the total current to 8 members.

## DISTRICT WEST INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, VOLUNTEER HOURS:

The District West IOC volunteered 255 hours of their time in 2019/2020.

## INCIDENT REPORTS

District West IOC reviewed a total of 10,095 Incident Reports (IRS) for over 10,000 members from July 2019 to June 2020.

In 2019/2020 the District West IOC will received every type of "open" Incident Report, including Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Other Abuse, Neglect, Accidental Injury, Missing Clients, Emergency Measures, Human Rights Violations, Medication Errors, Death, Suicide, Hospitalization, Incarcerations, Theft and Property Destruction. We look forward to working with DDD to create a secure electronic review system so District West IOC Members can better review Incident Reports.

## BEHAVIOR PLANS

District West IOC reviewed a total of 585 Behavior Plans in 2019/2020.

Pat Thundercloud and Bernadine Henderson attended the 2019/2020 District West Program Review Committee (PRC) meetings as representatives of the District West IOC. Pat and Bernadine were consistently involved in attending the PRC meetings and are strong advocates for the process. However, the number of Behavior Plans needing review and the hours needed for an IOC Member to personally attend every District West Program Review Committee (PRC) meeting is beyond the availability of the current District West IOC Members who all are volunteers. We do the best we can and look forward to increasing the number of District West IOC Members so that we better can fulfill our statutory responsibilities. We look forward to working with DDD to create a secure electronic review system so District West IOC Members can review Behavior Plans and comment on them before the District West Program Review Committee (PRC) meeting reviewing that Behavior Plan, especially when no District West IOC Members are available personally to attend that District West Program Review Committee (PRC) meeting.

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